

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1.-7. (canceled)

8. (currently amended) A method for preparing ~~the~~ a composite material in the form of a structured gel comprising an aluminosilicate polymer matrix in the form of an imogolite gel made up of fibers in which at least two distinct fibers are interconnected by at least two covalent bonds to form an irreversible chemical gel and, dispersed in the matrix, an active organic compound ~~Claim 1~~, said method comprising the steps of hydrolysis in basic medium of at least one structuring agent in the presence of an active organic compound and an aqueous solution of an aluminosilicate polymer in the form of an imogolite made up of fibers comprising on their surface active hydroxyl groups, said structuring agent containing at least two leaving groups that react with said active hydroxyl groups to form at least two covalent bonds between at least two distinct imogolite fibers to yield an irreversible chemical gel.

9. (original) The method according to Claim 8 wherein the structuring agent is selected from among compounds of formula A or A' wherein :
A has the formula $(CH_3)_nM(R)_{4-n}$ wherein M is a quadrivalent atom selected from among the transition metals and elements of groups III and IV of the periodic table of the elements, and R is hydrogen, a halogen, a methoxy group, an ethoxy group, an isopropoxy group, a carboxyl or acetoxy group, and n is 0, 1 or 2, and wherein the different groups R can be either identical or different.
A' has the formula $(CH_3)_nM'(R)_{3-n}$ where M' is a trivalent atom selected from among the transition metals and elements of groups III and IV of the periodic table of the elements, R being as defined above, and n is 0 or 1, and wherein the different groups R can be either identical or different.

10. (original) The method according to Claim 9, wherein M is selected from silicon, titanium or zirconium.

11. (original) The method according to Claim 9, wherein of M' is selected from aluminum or boron.

12. (original) The method according to Claim 10, wherein compound A is tetramethoxysilane.

13. (original) The method according to Claim 8, wherein the concentration of structuring agent is less than 10% by weight relative to the [Al+Si] content of the imogolite.

14. (currently amended) A method for treating a medium by an active organic compound that involves placing said medium in contact with ~~the~~ a composite material of Claim 1 comprising an aluminosilicate polymer matrix in the form of an imogolite gel made up of fibers in which at least two distinct fibers are interconnected by at least two covalent bonds to form an irreversible chemical gel and, dispersed in the matrix, an active organic compound.

15. (currently amended) The method according to Claim 14 for the treatment of an aqueous solution liable to harbor micro-organisms that involves placing said aqueous solution in contact with ~~the~~ a composite material Claim 1 comprising an aluminosilicate polymer matrix in the form of an imogolite gel made up of fibers in which at least two distinct fibers are interconnected by at least two covalent bonds to form an irreversible chemical gel and, dispersed in the matrix, an active organic compound.

16. (original) The method according to Claim 15 for the treatment of a photographic bath.

17. (currently amended) A device for delivering a controlled quantity of an active organic compound consisting of a support that is permeable to said active organic compound in which is placed ~~the~~ a composite material of Claim 1 comprising an aluminosilicate polymer matrix in the form of an imogolite gel made up of fibers in which at least two distinct fibers are interconnected by at

least two covalent bonds to form an irreversible chemical gel and, dispersed in the matrix, an active organic compound.